

# Prophecies of The Bible

What is “Prophecy”?

A message which comes from another source (2 Peter 1:20-21)

What is “Predictive Prophecy”?

A prediction about the future!

Isaiah 41:22 – “Prove your prophecies!”

To be accepted as evidence, it needs to have details!

Names

Places

Consistency

## Prophecy outside the Bible?

Perhaps the most famous “prophet” who was not connected with the Bible is a guy named Nostradamus. He had been credited with predicting many of the world’s major events in history. But others say that his predictions are too vague. Let’s look at some of them.

**(Wikipedia)**

**Nostradamus** was a French physician and reputed seer who published collections of prophecies that have since become widely famous. He is best known for his book *Les Propheties*, the first edition of which appeared in 1555. Since the publication of this book, which has rarely been out of print since his death, Nostradamus has attracted a following that, along with much of the popular press, **credits him with predicting many major world events**. Most academic sources maintain that the associations made between world events and Nostradamus's quatrains are largely the result of misinterpretations or mistranslations (sometimes deliberate) or else are **so vague as to render them useless** as evidence of any genuine predictive power.

Through anger and internal hatreds, the exiles  
will hatch a great plot against the king.  
Secretly they will place enemies as a threat,  
and his own old (adherents) will find sedition against them.

Near the gates and within two cities  
There will be scourges the like of which was never seen,  
Famine within plague, people put out by steel,  
Crying to the great immortal God for relief.  
(This supposedly predicted the atomic bomb in Japan)

“Earthshaking fire from the center of the Earth  
Will cause tremors around the New City.  
Two great rocks will war for a long time,  
Then Arethusa will redden a new river.”  
(This supposedly predicted the 9/11 attack in New York)



Things to consider:

Are there specifics in these “prophecies”?

Is there only one way to look at this after the fact?

There are only a handful of these that seem to fit well with what has happened!

## **Prophecy Difficulties**

Understanding Prophecy can be very difficult! Why?

Context is difficult

When was it written?

Will the event happen soon or a long time from now?

Geography, Bible & secular history

Much of it is written in poetry!

Not everything is fulfilled in the pages of The Bible

Most commentaries relate everything to the “Tribulation” and the “Antichrist”

## **Dual Fulfillment?**

Dual Fulfillment is the idea that prophecies speak about something that is happening at the time and also about something that will happen in the future. This means that prediction can not mean just one thing, but two! Sometimes more than two!

How can this be the major way to interpret these things if the earliest reference to a “dual fulfillment” is *The Use and Intent of Prophecy* by Thomas Sherlock (in around 1732). This idea is newer than the King James Bible from 1611! This book was written in response to a contemporary who said that the “prophecies” only refer to historical events.

It’s because of this idea of dual/multiple fulfillment that the idea of *The Tribulation* started, about 100 years later (1800’s). In Revelation it says that Satan will be bound for 1000 years. People wanted to know more about this time, so using the idea that any scripture can have an extra meaning, they search the Bible for more information. This basically means that there are NO RULES for deciding what applies and what does not, which has led to different versions of the Tribulation.

I really doubt that such radical ideas that are so new can be correct.

## **You CAN’T predict the end of the world!**

Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21

People will try to determine when THE END will come, but no one knows this, except THE FATHER.

People will try to predict THE END by pointing to “bad things” happening all over the world, but Jesus said that “wars and rumors of wars” will not mean that the end is going to happen.

THE END will come as a surprise - like a thief in the night.

## **The ANTICHRIST?**

The topic of the ANTICHRIST has captivated the imagination of people for generations. Believed to be an agent of Satan, theologians and movie writers have created much fear and trembling in the hearts of millions of people around the world by claiming that Satan will bring forth and use one specific individual as an evil counterpart to Christ, and that this “antichrist” will be of such similar power and might to the real Christ that the world and all souls in it will be in great peril leading to one final battle that will decide the ultimate fate of the universe and beyond!

The teaching has evolved and each new generation of religious “thinkers” adds new elements to the mystique that is the Antichrist!

### **A. What people say....**

(Please note that any Bible passages found in quoted material DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT WHAT THE PASSAGES MEAN. You must place them into context!)

Research reveals that the idea of a single individual “antichrist” began about 200 years after Christ left the earth. Since that time, people of subsequent generations slowly built upon those initial theories until the current model for the antichrist is what it is today.

The following article, taken from the website *about.com* (<http://christianity.about.com/od/endtimestopicalstudy/a/antichrist.htm>) adequately summarizes the most basic common beliefs about antichrist today. (Verse quotations have been removed for reasons of space.)

#### ***Who is the Antichrist?***

Although the Bible does not specifically name who the antichrist will be, it does give us some clues as to what he will be like.

#### ***Speculation***

During my research I came across a lot of current speculation about the antichrist, who he is or who he might be. A great many unlikely guesses were among the suggestions. The most popular names to come up were George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and the Pope. I too have been accused of being the antichrist by a few of my readers who don't agree with a biblical perspective or an editorial I've written. However, it's highly improbable that one of these (Bush, Obama, Benedict, or Me) is the actual "son of perdition" spoken of in 2 Thessalonians, chapter 2.

#### ***Bible Names for Antichrist:***

By taking a look at the different names for the antichrist in the Bible, we can gain a better understanding of the kind of person he will be.

#### ***Antichrist***

The name "antichrist" is only found in 1 John 2:18, 2:22, 4:3, and 2 John 7. The Apostle John was the only Bible writer to use the name antichrist. Studying these verses, we learn that many antichrists (false teachers) will appear between the time of Christ's first and Second Coming, but there will be one great antichrist who will rise to power during the end times, or "the last hour," as

1 John phrases it. He will deny that Jesus is the Christ. He will deny both God the Father and God the Son. He will be a liar and a deceiver.

By the end times, many will easily be deceived and embrace the antichrist because his spirit will already dwell within the world.

### ***Man of Sin***

In 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, the antichrist is described as the "man of sin," or "son of perdition." Here Paul, like John, is also warning believers about the antichrist's ability to deceive:

The NIV makes it clearer that a time of rebellion will come prior to Christ's return and then the "man of lawlessness, the man doomed to destruction" will be revealed. The antichrist eventually will exalt himself above God to be worshiped in the Lord's Temple, proclaiming himself to be God. Verses 9 and 10 say that the antichrist will do counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, to gain a following and deceive many.

### ***The Beast***

In Revelation 13:5-8, the antichrist is referred to as "the beast:"

We see this name "the beast" used for antichrist several times in Revelation.

The antichrist will gain political power and spiritual authority over every nation on the earth. He will most likely begin his rise to power as a very influential, very charismatic, political or religious diplomat. He will rule the world government for forty-two months. According to many eschatologists, this time frame is understood to be during the latter half (3.5 years) of the tribulation. During this period, the world will endure a time of unprecedented trouble.

### ***A Little Horn***

In Daniel's prophetic vision of the end of days we see "a little horn" described in chapters 7, 8 and 11. In the interpretation of the dream, this little horn is a ruler or king, and speaks, of the antichrist.

According to many end times Bible scholars, Daniel's prophecy interpreted together with verses in Revelation, specifically point to a future world empire coming from a "revived" or "reborn" Roman Empire, like the one in existence at the time of Christ. They predict that the antichrist will emerge from this race.

### ***False Christ***

In the Gospels (Mark 13, Matthew 24-25, and Luke 21), Jesus warned his followers of the terrible events and persecution that will occur before his second coming. Most likely, this is where the concept of an antichrist was first introduced to the disciples, although Jesus does not refer to him in the singular:

### ***Conclusion***

Is the Antichrist alive today? He could be. Will we recognize him? Perhaps not at first. However, the best way to avoid being deceived by the spirit of the antichrist is to know Jesus Christ and be ready for his return.

### ***Analysis:***

- The writer points out that the name “antichrist” IS ONLY FOUND IN JOHN’S WRITINGS!
- The writer states that the antichrist is spoken of in several other writings, even though neither the word itself nor any such connection of the antichrist to the passages can be found in the writers on the first 100 years after the close of the New Testament!
- The entire idea of a one single person being THE ANTICHRIST is the product of human opinion.
- The fact that hundreds of thousands of people believe and teach it as fact does not make it a fact.

### **B. What GOD says....**

As the writer mentioned above, there is only one New Testament writer who speaks about an antichrist, and this is John.

The antichrist is anyone (there can be many) who begins as a Christian and then denies Christ!

#### 1 John 2:18-23 (Our translation):

*18 Children, it is the last hour and just as you have heard that an antichrist is coming, also now many have become antichrists, from this we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not out of us; for if they were out of us they would have remained with us; but so that they might be shown because they are all not out of us. 20 And you have a KRISMA from the holy one and all of you know. 21 I did not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it and because every lie is not out of the truth. 22 Who is the liar except the one denying that Jesus is not the Christ? This is the antichrist; the one denying the father and the son. 23 Every one denying the son neither has the father, the one confessing the son also has the father. 24 Let that which you heard from the beginning remain in you! If that which you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the son and in the father. 25 And this is the promise which he proclaimed to you, eternal life. 26 I wrote these things to you concerning the ones deceiving you. 27 And the KRISMA which you received from him, remains in you and you have no need in order that someone might teach you, but as his KRISMA teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you must remain in it.*

The Christians lived in a time when all of them has special Holy Spirit guidance. This is the KRISMA - or “anointing” - John mentioned here. The arguments made by John in this text center around the idea of identifying the TRUE Spirit of guidance when claims are made. People who were once Christians (2:19) and who had received the KRISMA (the Holy Spirit) somehow became deceived in their minds and started believing incorrect things. They would then publicize their wrong ideas claiming to have received them from The Spirit. When other Christians heard their ideas and knew they were Christians, they became confused.

#### 1 John 4:1-6 (Our translation):

*1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit but test to prove whether the spirits are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this we know the spirit of [the] God; every spirit which confesses Jesus Christ having come in the flesh is from [the] God, 3 and every spirit does not confess Jesus is not from [the] God; and this is the antichrist, which you heard is coming, and now is already in the world. 4 Children, you are out of God and you have overcome them, because greater is the one in you than the one in the world. 5 They are out of the world, and on account of this they speak and the world hears them. 6 We are out of [the] God, and the one knowing [the] God hears us,*

*whoever is not out of [the] God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of deception.*

2 John 1:7 (Our translation):

*7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, the ones not confessing Jesus coming in the flesh; this is the deceiver and the antichrist.*

Context indicates that these teachers were saying false things about Jesus--like teaching that Jesus was not a real person!

This is why John points out that the TRUE KRISMA will never say that Jesus was not a real person. Notice how John (in 2:18) very clearly does not speak of only ONE person coming in the future, but rather speaks of MANY antichrists that had - at that time - already become antichrists!

This is the only place where antichrists are mentioned. There is no connection made in the Bible between the people John mentions here and the writings of Paul, of Daniel, or even of John's own writings in that book of Revelation. The only person who can become an antichrist is a Christian! Any Christian who decides to go outside of the teaching of Christ becomes a deceiver and an antichrist!

## **The Purpose of Prophecy**

- To give proof for being a Prophet
- To warn people when they are bad
- To give hope to people when they are good
- So that there would be written proof for the Christ when he came.
- Only about 2% of OT prophecy is messianic
- Only about 5% of OT prophecy looks to the NT
- Most prophecy is to tell people what is going to happen soon.

## **Prophecies In Israel's History**

Israel's history is portrayed in Deuteronomy 28:47-68. Study this prediction carefully and compare it with history! God said that they did not follow His laws that they would be attacked by enemies from far away, and when their cities were surrounded, they would resort to cannibalism. Similar things are said at the end of Leviticus.

When Israel (the Northern Kingdom) became deeply involved in idolatry, Isaiah foretold that the Lord would raise up the Assyrians as the "rod of [His] anger" to punish them<sup>1</sup>. God announced that after the Assyrians took Israel, the Assyrians themselves would be destroyed<sup>2</sup> by Babylon. History reveals that that is exactly what happened.

Later, when the Southern kingdom of Judah forgot their God and disobeyed him, the prophets announced that Babylon would arise to punish her<sup>3</sup> and indeed, to take her captive for seventy years<sup>4</sup>.

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1 Isaiah 10:5-6

2 Isaiah 10:12, 24-25

3 Jeremiah 25:9-11; Habakkuk 1:5

4 Jeremiah 25:11-12

The history of those events is available for all who care to read it<sup>5</sup>. But even mighty Babylon, "the glory of kingdoms," was to be destroyed by the Medes and Persians<sup>6</sup>, and, as everyone who has read, that is just what happened<sup>7</sup>. Many other Old Testament examples have been fulfilled that we have record of.

While the Jews were under Persian rule, King Cyrus of Persia was moved by the Lord to let the Jews go back and rebuild Jerusalem. He was prophesied by name more than a century and a half before the king was even born<sup>8</sup>. It is because of such remarkable prophecies as these that critics want to re-date the books of the Bible at a very late time!

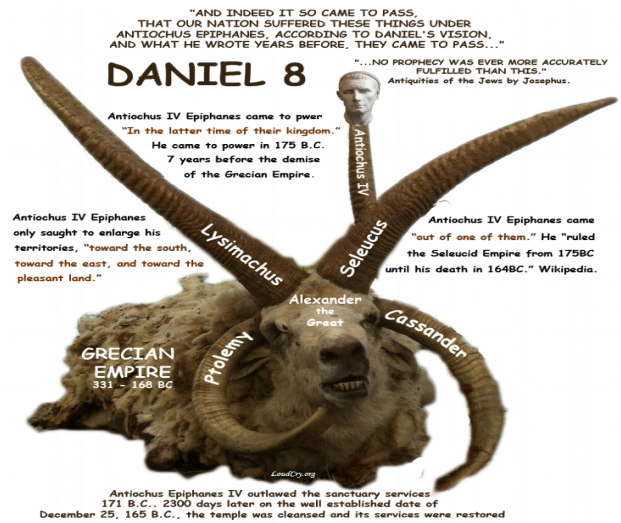
Even John the Immerser was prophesied about<sup>9</sup>! Isaiah foretold his coming and the fulfillment of that can be seen in the New Testament<sup>10</sup>!

## Prophecy In World History

The books of Daniel and Revelations are hard to understand because they predict things that are not later recorded in the Bible itself. Perhaps though, the easiest to understand is from Daniel 8. Daniel had a dream from God and didn't know what it meant. The angel Gabriel came to explain it to him.

The place where Daniel was currently ruled by the Medes and Persians, but later the Greeks would take over. The Greeks would have one king, and he would "be broken as soon as [Greece] was mighty." We know this person in secular history as Alexander the Great! When he had built a great empire, he died in the prime of his life!

What would happen after that? Gabriel said that "four kingdoms" would rise in its place. When Alexander died, his generals all competed for power for about 42 years. When it that all ended, there were 4 prominent generals that all had their own territories! These were based in Macedon, Egypt, Syria, and Anatolia. It stayed this way for over 250 years.



### Daniel 11:

The hostilities of a man against Israel would happen after a conflict in the south (Daniel 11:29-30).

*At the time appointed he shall return and come into the south, ... ships of Kittim shall come against him, and he shall be afraid and withdraw, and shall turn back and be enraged and take action against the holy covenant.*

5 See 2 Kings 24-25; 2 Chronicles 36:21

6 Isaiah 13

7 Daniel 5:28

8 See Isaiah 44:28; 45:1; Ezra 1

9 Isaiah 40:3-5

10 Luke 3:4-6

This man would take military control of Jerusalem, and especially the temple & cause the sacrifices to cease (v. 31).

*Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate.*

He would prefer and protect those who “violate the covenant” & He would meet resistance (vs. 32-33).

*He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.*

The righteous would suffer intense persecution (vs. 33-34a)

*though for some days they shall stumble by sword and flame, by captivity and plunder.*

Secular history says that Daniel Chapter 11 is about a guy named **Antiochus IV Epiphanes!**

Egypt is the South

Syria is the North

This all happened about 200 years after Daniel!



## **Prophecies about Jesus**

The different types of prophecy about the Son of God are nothing short of miraculous and are demanding evidence for Bible inspiration. The prophets that wrote these things down did not always know what they meant. They knew something big was coming, but the details were not clear. When Jesus came, suddenly everything made sense!

For example, there are prophecies about:

**(A) HIS LINEAGE**—He would be of the seed of Abraham<sup>11</sup>: of the tribe of Judah<sup>12</sup>; and, to the virgin Mary<sup>13</sup>. The scriptures even mention where he would be born<sup>14</sup>!

**(B) HIS NATURE**—Jesus was to be both human and divine; though born, He was eternal<sup>15</sup>. The Father would put His Spirit on him, and he would bring justice to the Gentiles<sup>16</sup>.

**(C) HIS BETRAYAL, DEATH, RESURRECTION**—It was foretold by the prophets that the Messiah would enter the city on a donkey<sup>17</sup> and that the people would rejoice. Also the prophets wrote that the Lord would be betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9) and he was (John 13:18). He would be spit upon and beaten (Isaiah 50:6; Matthew 26:67) and in death His hands and feet would be pierced (Psalm 22:16; Matthew 27:30 and John 19:37), and this is precisely what happened. Though He would be killed, amazingly, His flesh would not experience decay, but He would be raised from the grave (Psalm 16:10; Acts 2:22ff).

11 Genesis 22:18; Luke 3:34

12 Genesis 49:10?; Hebrews 7:14

13 Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:22

14 Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:6

15 Micah 5:2; John 1:1,14

16 Isaiah 42:1-4; Matthew 12:15-21

17 Zechariah 9:9; John 12:15



## **Objections to Bible Prophecy**

*Some places are not destroyed*

Ezekiel 16:3 therefore thus says the Lord God, 'Behold, I am against you, O Tyre, and I will bring up many nations against you, as the sea brings up its waves. 4 They will destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers; and I will scrape her debris from her and make her a bare rock. 5 She will be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea, for I have spoken,' declares the Lord God, 'and she will become spoil for the nations. 6 Also her daughters who are on the mainland will be slain by the sword, and they will know that I am the Lord.'"

Isaiah 17:1 The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap.

Jonah 3:4 And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.

- An answer

Jeremiah 18:7 At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy it; 8 if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it.

## **Wrong reference?**

Matthew 27:9 Then that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one whose price had been set by the sons of Israel; 10 and they gave them for the Potter's Field, as the Lord directed me."

## **How old is Daniel?**

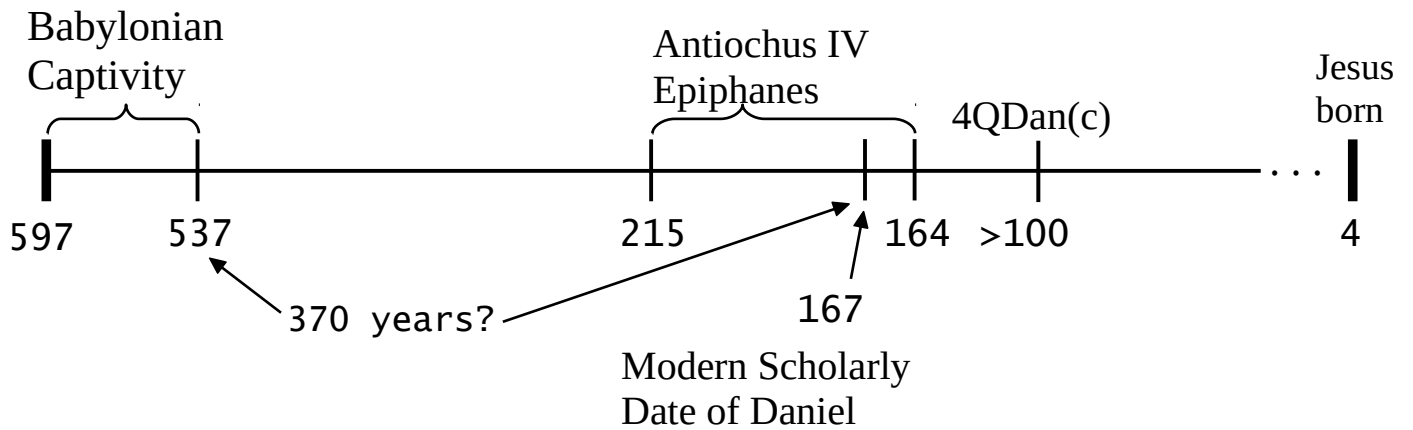
The traditional answer is 6th Century BC, and the style of writing points to this time. Just like old English and old Cebuano are not quite the same, the time gap between these is so great that the Hebrew was different that it would be centuries later.

BUT...

Remember the guy we talked about earlier? Antiochus IV Epiphanes? Historians are convinced that Daniel 11 is talking about him. Notably, it does not talk about his death. **Assuming that prophecy can not possibly happen**, this leads to the modern scholarly answer of about 167 BC (early/middle of 2nd century BC) for the origin of The Book of Daniel.

So... how old is Daniel?

## Traditional Date of Daniel



After that conclusion, we found the Dead Sea Scrolls. One fragment was called 4QDan(c). This is dated to about 40 years after they say it was written. The evidence shows that this book was clearly accepted as scripture at this time. Secular historians say that it is surprising that the Jews would have accepted this book so quickly! I have a better explanation... Daniel was around long before Epiphanes.